

Obama Wants More Police Wearing Body Cameras

White House press secretary Josh Earnest speaks during his daily news briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, where he spoke about the president's schedule and answering questions on topics including Ferguson and the economy.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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US aide resigns over criticism of Obama children

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An aide to a Republican congressman resigned Monday after her Facebook post criticizing President Barack Obama's daughters touched off a backlash.

Elizabeth Lauten, communications director to Congressman Stephen Fincher, said 16-year-old Malia Obama and her sister Sasha, 13, should have shown more "class" at a turkey-pardoning ceremony last week at the White House. Addressing her comments directly to the Obama girls, Lauten wrote that they should "respect the part you play," and added: "Then again your mother and father don't respect their positions very much, or the nation for that matter, so I'm guessing you're coming up a little short in the 'good role model' department."

Lauten also urged the Obama girls to "dress like you deserve respect, not a spot at a bar."

Lauten later apologized for the comments and deleted the original post, which drew harsh criticism across social media.

Jessica Carter, chief of staff for Fincher, said Monday that Lauten resigned. Carter had no additional comment on a personnel matter.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said he was surprised that a congressional staffer would use a Thanksgiving-themed event to criticize the first family, adding that it's "pretty much common sense" that the first daughters should be off-limits to criticism. □

Obama wants more police wearing body cameras

NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama wants to see more police wearing cameras to record events like the shooting death of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown. However he's not seeking to pull back federal programs that provide the type of military-style equipment used to dispel the resulting racially charged protests in Ferguson, Missouri.

The White House announced the conclusions of a three-month review Monday as the president was holding a series of meetings with his Cabinet, civil rights leaders, law enforcement officials and others to go over the findings. At least for now, Obama is staying away from Ferguson in the wake of the uproar over a grand jury's decision last week not to charge the police officer who fatally shot Brown.

"This challenge of strengthening trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve has been laid bare in Ferguson in a pretty dramatic way," said White House press secretary Josh Earnest. But he wouldn't say if additional training of Ferguson police would have resulted in different outcome there.

Obama is proposing a three-year, \$263 million spending package to increase use of body-worn cameras, expand training for law enforcement and add more resources for police department reform. The package includes \$75 million for to help pay for 50,000 of the small, lapel-mounted cameras to record police on the job,

with state and local governments paying half the cost. The FBI estimates there were just under 700,000 law enforcement officers in the US in 2011.

Brown's family wants to see every police officer working the streets wearing a body camera. The White House has said the cam-

eras could help bridge deep mistrust between law enforcement and the public. It also potentially could help resolve the type of disputes between police and witnesses that arose in the Ferguson shooting. Some witnesses have said Brown had his hands up when Wilson shot him. The officer who shot him said he feared for his life when Brown hit him and reached for his gun. After the shooting and resulting protests in August, Obama ordered a review of federal programs that fund military gear for local

police after critics questioned why police in full body armor with armored trucks responded to dispel demonstrators. Obama seemed to sympathize when announcing the review over the summer. Earnest said the president does not want to repeal the programs that are au-

460,000 pieces of controlled property have been provided to local police, including 92,442 small arms, 44,275 night-vision devices, 5,235 Humvees, 617 mine-resistant vehicles and 616 aircraft.

Obama's staff is drafting an executive order that will require federal agencies



Students at Jackson State University participate in the national Hands Up Walkout on Monday, Dec. 1, 2104, at the Gibbs-Green Plaza on the school's Jackson, Mississippi, campus. Protesters across the U.S. have walked off their jobs or away from classes in support of the Ferguson protesters. Monday's walkouts stretched from New York to San Francisco, and included Chicago and Washington, D.C.

(AP Photo/The Clarion-Ledger, Joe Ellis)

thorized by Congress because they have proven to be useful in many cases, citing the response to the Boston Marathon bombing. The White House review shows the wide scope of the programs — \$18 billion in the past five years from five federal agencies, including the departments of Defense, Justice, Homeland Security and Treasury, plus the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The report says most of the equipment the programs provide are routine — like office furniture, computers and basic firearms — but about

that run the programs to work with law enforcement and civil rights and civil liberties organizations to recommend changes within four months. Demands for police to wear the cameras have increased across the country since Brown's death. Some officers in the St. Louis suburb have since started wearing the cameras, and the New York Police department became the largest department in the U.S. to adopt the technology when it launched a pilot program in early September. □



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Cyber Monday shoppers give retailers sales bump

MAE ANDERSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cyber Monday is turning into Cyber Month.

Retailers rolled out dis-

counters and free shipping deals on Cyber Monday, with millions of Americans expected to log on and shop on their work computers, laptops and tablets after the busy holiday shopping weekend.

online sales rose just 8.7 percent compared with last year, according to IBM Digital Analytics. The figures don't take into account the many shoppers who

smartphones and tablets, has accounted for nearly 39 percent of all online traffic, compared with 30 percent a year ago. Average order value was \$133.07,

Courtney Lane Greenley, 25, from Alexandria, Virginia, was feeling regret Monday that she didn't buy a knife block and cutlery earlier in the week, when she saw better deals online. Amazon was running a limited-time "lightning offer" for some Rachael Ray cookware on Friday under \$100, but on Monday the same products cost more than \$100.

"I should have pulled the trigger earlier," she said. Greenley didn't think she would make the purchases on Monday. Jack Kananian, of Brunswick, Ohio, 31, was more satisfied with his purchase. He waited months to buy a computer because he wanted to wait for Cyber Monday deals. He found one on HP's mobile site and bought it via his smartphone on Monday, a computer with a touch screen for \$550 marked down from \$800.

"I've been taking a look at different prices, but I bought it once I saw the deal, it was the best price I saw by far," he said.

On Monday, Gap and Banana Republic offered 40 percent off all purchases. Amazon offered up to 45 percent off some Samsung TVs and a deal later in the day for its Amazon Fire TV video streaming box marked down to \$69 from \$99.

Wal-Mart said it has doubled its Cyber Week deals

to 500 compared with last year, including up to half off some TVs, tablets and toys with free-shipping offers. Wal-Mart is also rolling out new deals later in the day in its so-called "Evening Edition" round of deals, including a Straight Talk Moto E Android Phone for \$9.99, 90 percent off its regular price.

The name "Cyber Monday" was coined in 2005 by the National Retail Federation's online arm, Shop.org, to encourage people to shop online.

After retailers revved up deals, it became the busiest online shopping day in 2010. The name was also a nod to online shopping being done at work, where faster connections made it easier to browse, less of a factor now.

This Cyber Monday comes after a weekend that saw 5.3 percent fewer shoppers and 11 percent less spending, according to estimates by the National Retail Federation.

Research firm comScore said late Sunday that e-commerce spending for the first 28 days of the November and December shopping season totaled \$22.7 billion, up 15 percent from last year. Sales jumped 32 percent to \$1 billion on Thanksgiving Day and 26 percent on Black Friday to \$1.51 billion. The firm expects people to spend about \$2.5 billion on Cyber Monday alone. □



Glenn Wright, dressed in a Santa Claus costume, moves items at the Amazon fulfillment center on Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, in Lebanon, Tenn. Retailers rolled out discounts and free shipping deals on Cyber Monday, with millions of Americans expected to log on and shop on their work computers, laptops and tablets after the busy holiday shopping weekend.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

counts and free shipping deals on Cyber Monday, with millions of Americans expected to log on and shop on their work computers, laptops and tablets after the busy holiday shopping weekend.

But with retailers extending their online deals into "Cyber Week" and even "Cyber Month," early reports indicated shopping was less robust online on Monday compared with prior years. As of 3 p.m. ET,

plan to head online after work or in the evening. But a year ago, Cyber Monday sales jumped 20.6 percent, according to IBM.

It is still expected to be the biggest online shopping day again, as it has been each year since 2010. That is good news for retailers after a Thanksgiving weekend that saw fewer shoppers and lower spending than last year, according to some estimates. Mobile traffic, which includes

flat with 2013.

Forrester analyst Sucharita Mulpuru said retailers could be playing it safe on deal offers since shoppers have been conditioned to head online to look for sales on Monday.

"Cyber Monday offers aren't super compelling, but don't need to be," she said. "It's been the biggest shopping day of the year for the last few years, so they know that people are going to come."

US jury selection begins in German student's death

MISSOULA, Montana (AP)

— Jury selection began Monday in the trial of a U.S. man charged with fatally shooting a German exchange student who broke into his garage.

The case against Markus Kaarma centers on whether he justifiably feared another home invasion because his Montana residence was burglarized twice before. He is charged with deliberate homicide in the April 27 death of Diren Dede, 17, of Hamburg.

Defense attorneys argue Kaarma was protecting his home and family, while prosecutors argue Kaarma deliberately tried to lure the victim into his dark garage by leaving out a purse and keeping the garage doors partially open.

Dede's parents, Celal and Gulcin Dede, were in the courtroom Monday, and his mother wore a T-shirt bearing his photo.

Prosecutors say Kaarma was watching a video monitor and saw a dark figure in his garage the night of the shooting. They say he grabbed his shotgun, exited the front door, turned to face the partially open garage door and fired four shots into the darkness.

A friend told police he was with Dede the night it happened. The Ecuadorian exchange student, Robby Pazmino, said they were walking down the street, and he watched as Dede entered the garage.

Police:

4 dead following 3 shootings in West Virginia

MATT STROUD

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia (AP)

— Three separate shootings left four people dead in West Virginia on Monday, and state police said they're seeking one suspect in all the shootings.

State police spokesman Lt. Michael Baylous said two of the shootings happened in the Westover area and the other occurred about six miles (10 kilometers) away in an area known as Cheat Lake.

Baylous identified the two victims from the Cheat Lake shooting as Sharon Kay Berkshire, 39, and David Frum, 28. Baylous had no details on the other shootings, saying other law enforcement agencies were handling them.

Officials said police are seeking a suspect named Jody Lee Hunt, 39. Police also are searching for a 2011 Ford F-150 extended cab truck.

"We ask that everyone stay



A Sheriff's department patrol car is parked on the exit ramp of exit 155 of I-79 in Morgantown, W.V., Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, after three separate shootings left four people dead on Monday. State police said they're seeking one suspect in all the shootings. Monongalia County 911 director Mike Wolfe said police are seeking Jody Lee Hunt, 39, of Westover. Police also are searching for a 2011 Ford F-150 extended cab truck. (AP Photo/Ben Queen)

vigilant and use their discretion about whether they should leave their homes," Wolfe said.

According to court records, Berkshire filed a domestic violence case against Hunt last month. Court records also indicated there were

no protective orders currently in place for Berkshire. Further details were not immediately available. A call to Hunt's home went unanswered.

Local schools were placed on lockdown, but West Virginia University said there

was no immediate threat to the campus. Classes resumed Monday following the Thanksgiving break.

"The incident is not associated with WVU nor did it occur on or near campus," the university said in a news release.

Son convicted of looting NY philanthropist dies

JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)

— Anthony Marshall, whose aristocratic life as philanthropist Brooke Astor's only child unraveled as he was convicted of raiding her fortune, has died, his lawyer said Monday. Marshall was 90.

Marshall, a decorated World War II veteran who later became a diplomat and Broadway produc-

er, died Sunday morning at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, attorney Kenneth Warner said. Warner didn't immediately have information on the cause of Marshall's death, but the 90-year-old had had heart and other health problems for years.

Marshall was convicted in October 2009 of taking advantage of his aged mother's slipping mind to

loot her millions, and he was sentenced to one to three years in prison. His incarceration was delayed for more than 3½ years as he made his appeals, and Marshall ultimately went to prison in June 2013.

He was granted medical parole two months later, with a state parole board finding that he was suffering from debilitating and permanent, though not termi-

nal, illness. The board asked whether he had regrets about the events leading to his imprisonment, according to a transcript.

Born into wealth, Marshall enjoyed a life of upper-class respectability that was shattered when one of his own sons, Philip Marshall, publicly accused him in 2006 of looting the society doyenne's money while letting her live in squalor.



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Pregnancy bias claim to be heard by Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP) — Peggy Young sued United Parcel Service for discriminating against pregnant women. She lost two rounds in lower courts, but the Supreme Court will hear her case Wednesday.

The 42-year-old Young said her persistence is not only for herself. "I am fighting for my two daughters and I'm fighting for women who want to start a family and provide for the family at the same time," she said.

UPS spokeswoman Kara Gerhardt Ross said the law is on the company's side. "UPS did not intentionally discriminate," Ross said.

The outcome could have wide-ranging effects.

Three-quarters of women entering the workforce today will become pregnant at least once while employed, and many will work throughout their pregnancies, employment discrimination expert Katherine Kimpel wrote in a court brief. Some will experience complications or physical effects that cause them to ask their employers for a



This photo shows Peggy Young, of Lorton, Va., with her daughter Triniti, 7, in Washington. Peggy Young has only to look at her 7-year-old younger daughter to be reminded how long she has been fighting with United Parcel Service over its treatment of pregnant employees, and why.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

change of duties or other modifications, Kimpel said. The question in Young's case is whether UPS violated the law through its policy of providing temporary light-duty work only to employees who had on-the-job injuries, were dis-

abled under federal law or lost their federal driver certification. "If you were painting your house and fell off a ladder, or if you had a ski accident, that wouldn't qualify for restrict-

ed light duty. That's where pregnancy fell at that time. It was not covered in any state law except California's," Ross said.

The Obama administration and 120 congressional

Democrats are supporting Young.

UPS employed Young as a part-time driver whose main job was to deliver overnight letters by 8:30 a.m. UPS requires people in those jobs to be able to lift packages as heavy as 70 pounds (32 kilograms). Young said she rarely handled anything over 20 pounds (9 kilograms) and dealt almost exclusively with letters that sat on the passenger seat of her van. In 2006, Young, then in her mid-30s, took a leave of absence to undergo in vitro fertilization in her desire to have a third child. On the third try, she became pregnant.

Young wanted to return to work, and her doctor and a midwife wrote notes saying she should not lift packages heavier than 20 pounds (9 kilograms). But UPS told Young she could not continue in her job and did not qualify for a temporary assignment. □

Justices consider Facebook threats case

SAM HANANEL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — From the violent lyrics of rap music to the crude comments of teenagers in video-game chat rooms, the Supreme Court struggled Monday over where to draw the line between free speech and illegal threats in the digital age.

The justices considered the case of a U.S. man convicted of posting violent threats on Facebook — in the form of rap lyrics — about killing his estranged wife, shooting up a school and slitting the throat of an FBI agent. Lawyers for Anthony Elonis say he didn't mean to threaten anyone. They

contend his posts under the pseudonym "Tone Dougie" were simply a way for him to vent his frustration over splitting up with his wife.

The government argues the proper test is not what Elonis intended, but whether his words would make a reasonable person feel threatened.

That's the standard a jury used in convicting him under a federal law barring threats of violence.

Some justices seemed concerned that the government's position is too broad and risks sweeping in language protected by the First Amendment. But there seemed to be little agreement over what standard

to use.

Elonis attorney John Elwood said the speaker's intent could be determined by searching computer records, cell phone records and other evidence of context. He said many speakers being prosecuted "are teenagers who are essentially shooting off their mouths and making sort of ill-timed, sarcastic comments which wind up getting them thrown in jail."

Chief Justice John Roberts suggested the government's standard simply would be whether a reasonable person familiar with teenagers in video-game chat rooms would view it as a threat. □



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US Financial Front:

American factory growth slips in Nov. but still healthy



Ron Hudgins welds a 2015 Ford F-150 cab at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Dearborn, Mich. U.S. factories were slightly less busy in November, as production and hiring slowed, though the level of activity remained strong.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factories were slightly less busy in November, as production and hiring slowed, though the level of activity remained strong.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Monday that its manufacturing index slipped to 58.7 last month from 59 in October. Any reading above 50 signals expansion. October's figure matched a

three-year high reached in August.

Manufacturing has been a key driver of growth this year in the U.S., even as it has fallen off overseas. Factories in China, the world's second-largest economy, are barely growing, according to a survey released Sunday by the bank HSBC Corp. And a European manufacturing index fell to 50.1 in November, the lowest in 17 months and just barely in expansion territory. Brazil's

manufacturing sector has contracted for the seventh time in eight months.

That has raised concerns among some economists that faltering overseas economies could soon drag on the U.S.

"While the U.S. economy is domestically-oriented, a rising dollar in combination with struggling global activity will weigh on eco-

nomics growth over the next year," Ksenia Bushmeva, an economist at TD Economics, wrote in a note to clients. A stronger dollar makes U.S. goods more expensive overseas.

In the U.S., other manufacturing data has pointed to a recent slowdown in output, and many economists said Monday that factories are probably not growing as fast as the ISM's survey suggests.

The index has topped 56 since June, up from an average of just 53.9 last year.

"Although we remain optimistic about the outlook.... we're not convinced that conditions are quite as good as the ISM implies," Paul Dales, senior economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

A measure of new U.S. orders rose and order backlogs jumped, both signs that output will likely remain solid in the coming months. A gauge of hiring dipped, but still pointed to steady job gains among manufacturing firms.

Lower oil prices are providing a big boost, the ISM found. Its measure of prices paid for raw materials plummeted to 44.5, the lowest in two years. Cheaper oil benefits plastic manufacturers, who use oil as an ingredient, and steelmakers and other manufacturers who use it for heating and shipping.

Other recent manufacturing reports have been mixed. Businesses ordered fewer big-ticket manufactured goods in October, excluding the volatile aircraft category, the government said last week. Orders in a key category reflecting business investment plans fell for the second straight month.

That's raised concerns that economic growth could slow in the final three months of this year. The economy expanded at a 4.25 percent annual rate in the April-June and July-September quarters. That was the best six months of growth for the U.S. economy since 2003. □

Aid group closes Afghan office after Kabul attack

JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The foreign aid group Partnership in Academics and Development said Monday it has closed its Kabul, Afghanistan, office after an attack by Taliban fighters killed the office's director, his two teenage children and two Afghan citizens.

Several other people were injured, the group's international field director, Allen Goff, told The Associated Press in an email. He did not elaborate.

Werner Groenewald, a 46-year-old South African who led the group's charitable activities in Afghanistan, was among those killed, Goff said. He identified the others as Groenewald's 15- and 17-year-old children and two Afghan citizens. He did not release their names.

Afghan authorities said Saturday's attack was carried out by three Taliban militants who stormed the office. One exploded a suicide vest and the two others were killed in a gunfight with police.

At least one of the attackers wore a police uniform, authorities said. Goff said PAD, an international aid group with an office in Redlands, California, has operated in Afghanistan since 2002, providing educational services to both children and adults. Groenewald, 46, had been the country's director since 2011. □

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US businessman jailed in Russia over broken window

**J. ELLINGWORTH
N. VASILYEVA**

Associated Press

BOSTON/MOSCOW (AP) —

Last year, he tried to bring former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow to Moscow to play for his American football team. Now American businessman Mike Zaltsman sits in a crowded jail cell, accused of breaking a window. The Boston entrepreneur is involved in a dispute over an office he rented from a Russian billionaire that culminated with his arrest in April.

The case underscores the unpredictable business environment in Russia, where thousands have ended up in jail because of disputes or raids by rivals. Even seemingly petty crimes are used to imprison people for months or years.

Although the property dispute is murky, Zaltsman's treatment is excessive by any standard, advocates say.

"The fact that he was jailed for a broken window — this is cruel and sadly typical of Russia," said Yana Yakovleva, founder of the advocacy group Business Solidarity. Moscow police and investigators refused to comment on the case.

Zaltsman, who has dual Russian and U.S. citizenship, was accused of hooliganism — a broad charge that has been used against the feminist punk band Pussy Riot and Greenpeace environmental activists. If convicted, he could be imprisoned for up to seven years. He denies he was delinquent on his rent, and says he has had no contact with U.S. Embassy officials. A State Department official disputed this, saying U.S. diplomats have been in contact with Zaltsman and were monitoring the case. The official spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Tensions have escalated this year between Moscow and Washington over Russia's annexation of Crimea and its perceived role in the bloody conflict in eastern Ukraine, along with a rise in

a bid to sign Tebow, the former Denver Broncos quarterback, to his roster.

For seven months, the 37-year-old Zaltsman has been in Detention Facility No. 5. He says he shares a cell with up to 15 others, with no trial in sight. Each prisoner has just two square

feet as a business partner and friend. Neither Gorodilov nor his representatives would comment.

Abramovich testified during a 2011 London trial that Gorodilov helped him in the creation of the oil company Sibneft in the 1990s. Abramovich later sold 75

percent of Sibneft to the Russian state firm Gazprom for \$13 billion. Gorodilov briefly entered politics with Abramovich, serving as his deputy during his time as governor of the remote Chukotka region.

When talks broke down, Zaltsman says, Gorodilov sent about 30 men, some armed, to occupy the office and smash furniture. Zaltsman also alleges they stole \$20,000 in office equipment. Zaltsman says he and some friends first tried to film the intruders to generate publicity over what they saw as an attack. Then they moved to more aggressive methods. On April 13, Zaltsman says, he and his supporters tried to scare Gorodilov's security into leaving. Zaltsman shouted that he was from the Russian police special forces and that "anyone who doesn't leave in the next 10 seconds will be shot on the spot." The occupants left, but in the confusion, Zaltsman says, one threw a chair through a window. Zaltsman and Popkov were arrested 10 days later. Zaltsman was accused of breaking the window himself, while his associate was accused of assaulting one of the security men.

In two civil cases brought against Zaltsman, the courts sided with Gorodilov and said the eviction was legitimate, ruling Zaltsman's company had stopped paying rent and had ceased to be the legal tenant. Zaltsman insists he paid rent in compliance with the lease. Neither he nor his company was represented at some of the hearings.

Police have refused to comment while the criminal case is under investigation. They agreed only to provide the article of the criminal code under which the men are charged. It specifies they are accused of hooliganism while acting as part of a group and resisting police or security guards.



In this file hand out photo provided by Mikhail Zaltsman, center in grey sweater, lawyers, players of the Black Storm American football team pose for a photo at the Leningradsky railway terminal in Moscow after they returned from winning the Russian championship in St. Petersburg, Russia.

(AP Photo/ HO)

anti-American sentiment. But there has been no suggestion that this played a role in the Zaltsman case.

Zaltsman grew up in Russia before moving to Boston in 1996 at age 19 with his parents, one of many Jews to leave following the collapse of the Soviet Union. He became a U.S. citizen five years later and built a fortune in shipping and media ventures that he values at \$10 million.

He returned to Russia in 2005, setting up his Black Storm football team, which last year won the Russian championship. He failed in

meters (21 square feet) of floor space, barely enough to lie down.

"Almost no sky and sun can be seen here," he said. "I'm forgetting how it looks."

Dmitry Popkov, the former coach of the Black Storm, was arrested with Zaltsman. He suffers from health problems that led to him pleading guilty in October to be treated while under house arrest.

In the property dispute, Zaltsman alleges he was persecuted by Andrei Gorodilov, a tycoon who counts London-based billionaire Roman Abramov-

ich as a business partner and friend. Neither Gorodilov nor his representatives would comment.

Abramovich testified during a 2011 London trial that Gorodilov helped him in the creation of the oil company Sibneft in the 1990s. Abramovich later sold 75 percent of Sibneft to the Russian state firm Gazprom for \$13 billion. Gorodilov briefly entered politics with Abramovich, serving as his deputy during his time as governor of the remote Chukotka region.



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Hong Kong teen protest leader on hunger strike

KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A prominent Hong Kong teen protest leader said Monday he's going on a hunger strike after a failed attempt by pro-democracy activists to step up their flagging movement for democratic reforms by surrounding government headquarters.

Joshua Wong's announcement came after protesters carrying umbrellas - which have become symbols of the pro-democracy movement - battled police armed with pepper spray, batons and riot shields for hours overnight before being driven off a main road outside the complex at dawn.

The government complex was forced to shut temporarily and the city's Beijing-backed leader said public patience was wearing thin, adding that police would "continue to take decisive action to enforce the law." Student leaders conceded that their attempt to escalate their movement had failed. With options running out, the 18-year-old Wong announced at a rally late Monday that he and two other members of his group would go on an indefinite hunger strike to press demands that the Hong Kong government drop restrictions on inaugural 2017 elections for the city's top leader.

Wong leads Scholarism, one of two student groups that have played key roles organizing the protests that have occupied major streets around the city for two months.

Hundreds of protesters overran police lines Sunday night as they tried to block traffic on a main road, but were stopped by police barricades from going down a side road to Chief Executive Leung Chun-Ying's office.

The protesters, many wearing surgical masks, hard hats and safety goggles and chanting, "I want true democracy," said they wanted to occupy the road to prevent Leung and other government officials from getting to work in the morning.

At one point after midnight, police charged the crowd, aggressively pushing demonstrators back with pepper spray and batons, after some protesters started pelting them with water bottles and other objects. Police later fell back, letting demonstrators re-occupy the road. At dawn, police charged again and cleared the protesters from some areas around the government headquarters.

Police spokesman Steve Hui said 40 protesters had been arrested while 17 officers were injured, but did not give a total injury count.

"Radicals and troublemakers were found in between the crowd who created chaos deliberately," he said. Protesters said they were taking action to force a response from Hong Kong's government, which has made little effort to address their demands that it scrap a plan by China's Communist leaders to use a panel of Beijing-friendly elites to screen candidates for Hong Kong's leader in inaugural 2017 elections. □



This photo shows Iraqi army soldiers deployed in front of an Islamic court run by the Islamic State group in the town of Sadiyah, 60 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq in Diyala province, Iraq. Iraqi authorities say Iraqi troops backed by Shiite militias have retaken two towns seized previously by militants in an eastern province. (AP Photo)

In fight against IS; Iraqi prime minister sacks 24 officials

SAMEER N. YACOB
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister said Monday he retired 24 officials from the Interior Ministry as part of efforts to restructure the country's security apparatus and remove those who failed to confront the crisis caused by the Islamic State group's onslaught. Haider al-Abadi's announcement came as the Sunni extremist group attacked a police checkpoint near Iraq's border with Syria, killing at least 15 Iraqi policemen in an assault that underscored the depth of the country's turmoil.

In Syria, the U.S. Central Command said a U.S. airstrike struck a target associated with the so-called Khorasan group, which Washington says is a special cell within the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front that is plotting attacks against Western interests. CENTCOM said the attack took

place near Aleppo, and was among 27 airstrikes since Friday that mainly targeted Islamic State group militants in Kobani and Raqqa in northern Syria.

The strike on the Khorasan group marked the fifth time the U.S. has targeted Nusra, al-Qaida's Syria branch, as part of its broader campaign against the IS group in Syria and Iraq.

Iraqi Prime Minister al-Abadi's move to send two dozen Interior Ministry officials into retirement is part of his efforts to "restructure the security forces and make them more effective in the face of terrorism," according to statements on his official Twitter and Facebook pages.

Al-Abadi, who became prime minister in September, has already retired a number of senior military officials in a push to reform the force. Monday's statements did not identify the individuals or the ranks of officials sent into early retirement.

The June fall of Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, was a turning point in the war against the jihadi group that calls itself the Islamic State. The U.S.-trained Iraqi military, harassed for months by small-scale attacks, buckled almost instantly when militants advanced on the city. Commanders disappeared, pleas for more ammunition went unanswered and in some cases, soldiers stripped off their uniforms and ran from the fight.

Since then, U.S.-led coalition airstrikes have served to reinforce Iraqi and Kurdish security forces as they battle the Sunni militants, but major victories have been sparse.

Many have blamed the army's poor performance on al-Abadi's predecessor, Nouri al-Maliki, saying he replaced top officers with inexperienced or incompetent political allies in order to monopolize power. □

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London tenants protest, fear they will lose homes

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Hundreds of London tenants marched to the British prime minister's office Monday to protest a New York-based investor's threat to hike their rents — the latest example of tensions in the capital's booming property market. Residents of the New Era housing project in east London, originally built as affordable housing for local workers, want to prevent Westbrook Partners from raising rents to market levels. Comedian Russell Brand has championed the cause of the residents, and won them attention. "It's social cleansing," said Lindsey Garrett, a health care coordinator with the National Health Service. "It's forcing ordinary working-class people out of London. It's wrong." Housing advocates say the case is being duplicated across Britain, though it usually takes place one home at a time. In the New

Era housing project, the entire development — some

90 families — is affected at once.

"The New Era debacle is an illustration of what is going

on around the country," said Alex Hilton, director of Generation Rent. "Tenants have no choice."

The protests are also a reflection of the tensions created by London's position as one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities. Since the financial crisis, property is increasingly being treated as a financial investment rather than a place to live.

Westbrook Partners bought the estate from a family that owned the development and ran it with a philanthropic bend since the 1930s. Hackney Council, the local government, has since been told Westbrook plans to evict the residents while renovations take place. They would be allowed to return if they pay market rates, which would be an estimated three times their present rents. But the company said that no eviction notices have been sent, nor legal proceedings undertaken.

"Westbrook has told tenants that there will be no changes to their residential leases and no increases in rents during the first half of 2015," the company said in a statement.

The company said it was also in the process of arranging a "dedicated tenant liaison officer," to create a "dialogue with tenants about future rent scenarios at the property."



Residents from the New Era estate in east London, originally built as affordable housing for local workers, pose for photographs with their supporter British comedian Russell Brand, right, just before handing a petition into 10 Downing Street, Monday, Dec. 1, 2014. The residents of the estate, comprising of 93 families, are demanding that U.K. leaders prevent U.S. property investment firm Westbrook Partners from raising rents to market levels.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

Snowden calls on UN to protect privacy, rights

HELSINKI (AP) — Edward Snowden, co-winner of the Right Livelihood Award, has called on the United Nations to propose new measures to protect individual privacy and human rights. The prize, also known as the "alternative Nobel," recognizes "the work of so many people ... not just over recent years" but over decades, the former NSA systems analyst told the award ceremony Monday in Swedish Parliament by video link. "I hope despite all we have

accomplished in the last year, we all recognize that this is only the beginning," Snowden said, adding that he could only accept the award collectively. Snowden, who remains in Russia after leaking NSA documents to journalists in 2013 and faces charges in the U.S. that could land him in prison for up to 30 years, said he has no regrets about his actions. He said journalists, publishers and activists were among those who had put "so much on the line" and

many couldn't go home because they feared arrest, including himself. "These are things that are unlikely to change soon. But they're worth it," he said. "All the prices we paid, all the sacrifices we made, I believe we'd do it again." "There is so much more to do ... and together we will achieve it," Snowden said, receiving a standing ovation. Snowden split the honorary portion of the award with Alan Rusbridger, edi-

tor of the Guardian, which has published a series of articles on government surveillance based on documents leaked by Snowden. The 1.5 million kronor (\$210,000) cash portion of the award — was shared by Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jahangir, Basil Fernando of the Asian Human Rights Commission and U.S. environmentalist Bill McKibben. The Right Livelihood Award foundation typically honors grass-roots activists.



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Ex-president wins Uruguay election, pot plan safe

L. HABERKORN
Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — Tabare Vazquez's victory in Uruguay's presidential election is a show of support for the leftist coalition that has governed the country for the past decade and allows the government to proceed with its plan to create the world's first state-run marijuana marketplace.

Vazquez, a 74-year-old oncologist who was president from 2005 to 2010, topped center-right rival Luis Lacalle Pou of the National Party 53 percent to 40 percent in Sunday's vote.

The runoff vote drew international attention after Lacalle Pou promised to undo much of the pioneering plan to put the government in charge of regulating the production, distribution and sale of marijuana on a nationwide scale. Vazquez, meanwhile, said he would proceed with it, unless it produced negative results.

As results came in, Lacalle Pou called Vazquez to concede and wish him "great success," while supporters of Vazquez's Broad Front coalition poured into the streets to celebrate.

In his victory speech, Vazquez called on the opposition to join him in a national accord to deal with the issues of public security, health and education. "I want to be able to count on all Uruguayans, but not so they follow me, so they guide me, accompany me."

Sunday's win marked a reversal of roles for Vazquez, who shook up Uruguayan politics when he became president the first time, peacefully ending 170 years of two-party dominance. In his first presidential campaign, Vazquez

promised changes that would "shake the roots of the trees." But he governed as a relatively cautious moderate, avoiding the constitutional changes and polarization that have shaken countries such as Venezuela.

His popularity on leaving office paved the way for the election of his successor, current President Jose Mujica, a former guerrilla known for his humble lifestyle and straight talk. Both men belong to the Broad Front coalition, which has been in power for a decade and has passed laws same-sex marriage, abortion and marijuana.

This time around, Mujica's popularity and a strong economy helped propel Vazquez into office, where he is now seen as the candidate of continuity, not of change.

Javier Silva, an operator at a state electrical plant, said he voted for Vazquez because he thinks the country is doing well.

"The economy is rising. The country isn't anything like it was 10 or 20 years ago, when it was in decline," said the 35-year-old.

Monica Centurion, an official at a state hospital, said she voted for Lacalle Pou because of his pledge to improve public security, which "is the principal issue."

Vazquez immediately moved to calm fears that he would introduce radical change in his second term. "Within the Constitution and the law everything. Outside the Constitution and the law nothing," he told party militants after his win was announced.

Lacalle Pou is the son of another ex-president, Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera, who governed from 1990 to 1995.



President elect Tabare Vazquez celebrates in Montevideo, Uruguay. Vazquez easily won Uruguay's presidential election, returning to power a left-leaning coalition that has legalized gay marriage and moved to create the world's first state-run marijuana marketplace.

(AP Photo/Matilde

Campodonico)



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Colombian president pushes army to explain capture

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— A day after leftist rebels freed a top Colombian general whose capture nearly sabotaged peace talks, attention is turning to the unexplained circumstances that led to his shock capture.

President Juan Manuel Santos on Monday urged his military to immediately

clarify to the nation why one of its best-trained soldiers apparently violated military protocol and ventured up a rebel-dominated river in western Colombia dressed as a civilian with two companions but without his normal security detail. Prosecutors and lawmakers are also lining up to question Gen. Ruben Alzate, the highest-ranking office ever seized by the

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in 50 years of fighting. Santos on Monday dispatched to Cuba his peace negotiators to restart talks with the FARC that he suspended two weeks ago in response to Alzate's capture.

Alzate hasn't been seen or heard from since his release Sunday except for in videos and photos, one of which show the counter-

insurgent expert in a plaid shirt and sweatpants shaking the hands of his captors before boarding a helicopter piloted by the international Red Cross.

The images, released by the FARC to Venezuelan network Telesur, are bound to stir resentment in Colombia's military, many of whose members are skeptical of Santos' peace efforts. While the capture of

Alzate appears to have been accidental, the crisis it triggered exposed one of the peace process' biggest challenges: the lack of a bilateral ceasefire.

Santos, pushed by the military and conservative critics, has long rejected such an option for fear it would give the rebels use an opportunity to regroup after a decade of heavy battlefield losses. □

Mexican president's polls fall to near-record lows

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP)

— New polls published Monday show approval ratings for Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto falling to some of the lowest levels in recent memory.

Just nine months after Pena Nieto appeared on the cover of Time magazine with the headline "Saving Mexico," scandals and crises have pushed his approval rating down to around 40 percent.

It's one of the lowest levels for a Mexican president since Ernesto Zedillo presided over the 1994-1995 economic crisis.

A Buendia & Laredo poll for the El Universal newspaper showed Pena Nieto's approval rating falling from 46 percent in August to 41 percent in November, with a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. A poll by the Reforma newspaper showed approval dropping from 50 percent in August to 39 percent in late November. It had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

Francisco Abundis, director of the Parametria poll-

ing firm, said his company's figures showed Pena Nieto in a similar range of approval, between 42 and 43 percent, and noted that was low for a Mexican

Nieto has never achieved high ratings in Mexico, despite enthusiasm abroad for his market-oriented reforms.

"What we have is a presi-

as spokesman for former president Vicente Fox, said the disappearance in September of 43 students in the southern state of Guerrero played a partial role

turned them over to a drug gang that reportedly killed them and incinerated their bodies. Aguilar also said the execution by soldiers of about 15 suspects at a warehouse in southern Mexico on June 30 played a role. "Not only were these events extremely regrettable, but the government was also slow to react," said Aguilar.

The governmental National Human Rights Commission said Monday that "violence, illegality and impunity are putting the country's stability and peaceful coexistence at risk, as never before."

That contrasts with the administration's ability to strike back-room deals to get reforms through Congress. Pena Nieto has opened the country's state-owned oil sector to private investment, tightened telecom regulation and passed a reform of the country's notoriously bad public school system. But when events like mass disappearances or executions occur, the government — which had long downplayed violence — was caught flat-footed. □



A bedroom wall in the official home of the Guerrero state governor, known as "Casa Guerrero" is defaced with graffiti after protesters demanding the return of the 43 missing students entered the home in the city of Chilpancingo, Mexico. Graffiti on the wall says: "Comfortable? Enjoy it, you have little left." New polls published Monday show approval ratings for Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto falling to some of the lowest levels in recent memory.

(AP Photo/Alejandrino Gonzalez)

president. "It's very difficult for them (Mexican presidents) to fall below 55 or 60 percent."

But he also said that Pena

dent who is stuck in the high to low 40s ... but there is no tendency," Abundis said. Political consultant Ruben Aguilar, who served

in the president's low approval ratings. The students were detained by local police in the Guerrero city of Iguala, who apparently

Haiti police say 34 inmates escape in prison break

EVENS SANON

Associated Press

SAINT MARC, Haiti (AP)

— Nearly three dozen prisoners awaiting trial in a crowded jail in a provincial city north of the Haitian escaped by sawing through steel bars, authorities said Monday.

Thirty-four prisoners crawled through the window at the

jail in Saint Marc and fled into the darkness, according to officials with the Haitian National Police.

Saint Marc Police Commissioner Berson Soljour said four of the men had been recaptured, but the rest remained at large. He said all of those who escaped had been awaiting trial, includ-

ing one facing a charge of murder. An officer who was on overnight duty at the jail has been detained on suspicion of aiding the escape, said Charles Roubins, a police investigator.

Saint Marc is a port city about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of the capital and is the largest city be-

tween Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien. Police were circulating photos of the men throughout the central Artibonite region.

Haitian prisons are notoriously overcrowded and rife with problems, with many inmates spending years in pre-trial detention. There were nearly 500 prisoners in-

side the jail in Saint Marc at the time of the escape.

About 330 prisoners, including many both charged and convicted of serious crimes, escaped in August from a prison in Croix-des-Bouquets using weapons apparently smuggled in by guards. Most have not been recaptured. □



Won by Team Haime/Quant;

2nd Hans Nooter Memorial Golf Cup a Hole in One!



ORANJESTAD - The second Hans Nooter Memorial golf tournament has been won by team Patrick Haime/ Cisco Quant (60 points). The winning team was immediately followed by Kim Tilleman/Papi de L'isle, Carla Schipper/Sjaak van Pelt, Allen Leverock/Gerrie Hoevenaars and Alfons Linders/Carsten Goetze. All teams scoring 63 in the two-men scramble format. Luuk Nooter, brother of Hans, who passed away



two years ago, and his son Tim both played in the event. Hans Nooter is still sorely missed by many on the island. The event started off at 12.30 when Tierra del Sol's golf pro James waved off the 35 golf carts to their respective holes. After a windy but sunny afternoon and surrounded by the spectacular scenery of the golf course, participants met at Café the Plaza, the official host of the tournament for the 2nd consecutive year, to celebrate with a few drinks and a spectacular dinner. During the prize-giving cer-

emony, the winners of the "closest to the pin" were announced. Hole #3 was won by Michael v.d. Hofstede, #7 by Pim Smits, #13 by Patrick Haime, #15 by Gerrie Hoevenaars, #17 by Alfons Linders and hole #1 was won by Hansl Holwerda.

The second Hans Nooter Memorial was a wonderful event with a fantastic finish.

Photos show the golf carts setting off at Tierra del Sol, a great shot by participant Steve Bowen, Luuk and Tim Nooter and the group of winners. □



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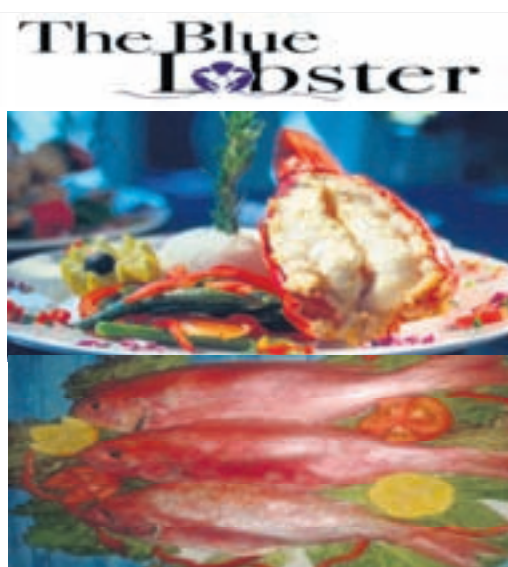
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in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Greg and Mrs. Sandy Wallace. The Wallace Family are loyal members of the Costa Linda Beach Re-

sort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, great entertainment and being on Aruba and staying at the Costa Linda is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel



representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Miriam Rodriquez representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort. □



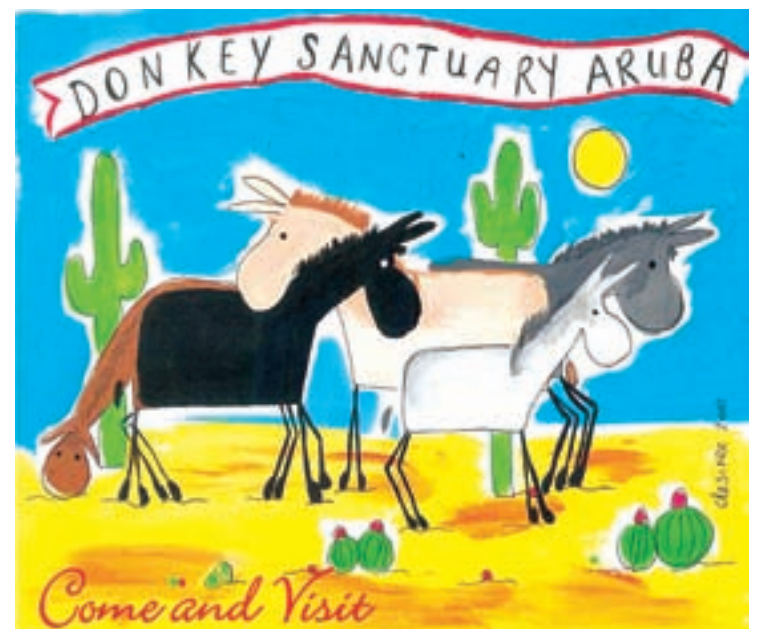
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The Aloe Vera Plant, a brief history.

Aloe Vera's healing properties were discovered centuries ago and it has been used as an ingredient in medications throughout the world by many different cultures ever since. It is believed that Cleopatra used Aloe to enhance the natural beauty of her skin by bathing in Aloe gel and that Christopher Columbus said: "Four vegetables are indispensable for the well being of a man: Wheat, the grape, the olive and Aloe. The first nourishes him, the second raises his spirit, the third brings him harmony and the fourth cures him."

Aloe Vera, meaning True Plant in Latin, originally comes from Africa and the plant has been endowed with such marvelous properties that over the years it has been given names such as the Burn Plant, Medicine Plant, Wand of Heaven and even Plant of Life.

"Island of Aloe".

The plant was introduced in Aruba in the mid 1800's, and because of the perfect weather conditions for the plant to grow in Aruba became one of the largest exporters of Aloe Vera products in the world earning the nickname "Island of Aloe". Aloe has proven to be so important to the local economy that the plant is even shown in the code of arms of Aruba. Aloe Vera nowadays tops the list as one of the most powerful moisturizers and hydrating remedies available and Aruban aloe is known to be the best in the world.

The Aruba Aloe Balm Factory and Museum Tour:

Founded in 1890, Aruba Aloe Balm is one of the oldest companies in Aruba and the only company that still grows and processes Aloe on the island. By visiting this iconic landmark and plantation, you will learn about the plant's rich history and about how Aruba Aloe makes its world famous skin care products.

During the tour, the super friendly local staff will guide you through the process of how they grow, hand cut and process the products that are sold worldwide. You will also get a guided tour of the museum that serves as a national depository for ancient aloe tools and equipment as well as a complete library on the history, manufacturing and healing qualities of Aloe.



Claude Cyr & Burdette Redfirn, from New Brunswick Canada, on Aruba for a friend's wedding:

"It is my first time on the island; we are having a great time! Aruba is beautiful and the water is amazing. I have used the Aruba Aloe products a lot already for small burns and especially sunburns. We are glad we came to take the tour to see the process; I had no idea that it was such a small company and that everything is done manually which is good for the local economy. What surprised me is that Aloe is actually edible and a bodily cleanser, so I have learned quite a bit. The tour guide Randy is excellent! "

Laura & Dominio Bucciero, from Napels Italy on their honeymoon:

"First time in Aruba, we are here for our honeymoon and staying for a week. The tour is very interesting, even though I don't perfectly understand English. We have

Aloe in Italy but there it's not such good quality as the Aloe here. I have purchased the hand and body lotion because I don't really sunburn but still want very smooth and hydrated skin."

If you want to experience this unique and authentic experience come visit us during your stay here on Aruba! The tour & museum are open Monday thru Saturday 8 am to 5 pm. If you are interested in learning more about Aruba Aloe products you can also visit www.arubaaloe.com. We hope to see you soon!

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hour from 4 till 6 pm. Last but not least our Pizzeria del Mar that offers a variety of pizzas. ☐



Baltimore Orioles' Nelson Cruz celebrates at the plate after he hit a grand slam in the eighth inning against the Texas Rangers in a baseball game Tuesday, June 3, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

AP sources: Mariners, Nelson Cruz nearing contract

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) -- The Mariners are on the verge of landing the right-handed slugger they were seeking for the middle of their batting order.

Free agent slugger Nelson Cruz and Seattle are nearing agreement on a contract, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Monday. The pair spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been finalized and was still pending a physical.

El Caribe in the Dominican Republic first reported the agreement, saying it was worth \$57 million over for four years. Seattle did not comment. Cruz led the major leagues with 40 home runs last season and had 108 RBIs for Baltimore, which signed him to an \$8 million, one-year deal.

Continued on Page 20



Wade, Bosh lead Miami over New York

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, center, passes the ball while New York Knicks' Quincy Acy, left, and Iman Shumpert defend during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in New York.
Associated Press
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Long history of political gestures in sports

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

The "Hands-up. Don't shoot!" gesture that five St. Louis Rams made during pregame wasn't the first time athletes have used their platform to make political statements.

A short list of some of the most famous moments:

-Tommie Smith and John Carlos: The most iconic moment of them all. American sprinters Smith and Carlos took to the medal stand at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968 and raised their gloved fists - the Black Power salute. It was a time of enormous racial tension in the United States, and the gesture was front-page news in hundreds of newspapers. The athletes were booed out of the stadium and expelled from the Olympics.

-Obama Salute: Broncos receiver Brandon Marshall started to pull a black-and-white glove out of his shirt,

designed to honor Barack Obama shortly after he was elected President in 2008. But a teammate stopped him, fearing he might draw a penalty.

-Tebow Eyeblack: Not so much a political expression as a religious one. While at Florida, Tim Tebow liked to etch bible chapters into his eyeblack, a practice he couldn't continue in the NFL, which banned such expressions.

-Los Suns: In response to the passing of a state law many saw as anti-Hispanic, the owner of the Phoenix Suns had his team wear their jerseys that said "Los Suns" at a home game in 2010.

-LeBron, Heat and hoodies: LeBron James and Dwyane Wade got the Heat to pose for a team picture with all the players wearing hoodies, the same thing Trayvon Martin was wearing when he was shot to death in 2012.

- "Quenelle": Soccer player

Nicolas Anelka was banned for five games for performing a gesture known in France as a "quenelle" - described as an inverted Nazi salute - during a game last year. He was later fired by his team, West Bromwich. Other soccer players, including Paolo Di Canio and Giorgos Katidis, have also been suspended for fascist salutes.

-The Rams: During pregame introductions Sunday, Tavon Austin and Kenny Britt were joined by Jared Cook, Stedman Bailey and Chris Givens, all of whom raised their hands in a show of support for protesters in Ferguson, Missouri - a suburb of St. Louis. Last Monday, a grand jury there decided not to charge the white officer who fatally shot Michael Brown, who was black. Some witnesses said Brown had his hands up before being shot, although others disputed that.



In this Oct. 16, 1968, file photo, U.S. athletes Tommie Smith, center, and John Carlos stare downward while gesturing skyward during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner after Smith received the gold and Carlos the bronze for the 200 meter run at the Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City. Australian silver medalist Peter Norman is at left.

Associated Press

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NBA Capsules

Bryant leads Lakers over Toronto 129-122 in OT

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant had 31 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for his 20th career triple-double as the Los Angeles Lakers ended a four-game losing streak with a 129-122 overtime victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

Seven players scored in double figures for the Lakers, including all five starters. Nick Young added 20 points off the bench, Carlos Boozer scored 18 and Jordan Hill had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Kyle Lowry had 29 points, nine assists and six rebounds for Toronto before fouling out with 2.8 seconds left in overtime. Terrence Ross had 20 points and Lou Williams added 19 off the bench for the Raptors, whose 13-3 record entering the game was the best start in franchise history.

Toronto played without leading scorer DeMar DeRozan, who tore a tendon in his left groin during Friday's 106-102 loss to Dallas and is out indefinitely. Greivis Vasquez made his first start of the season and scored 19 points.

SPURS 111, CELTICS 89

BOSTON (AP) — Danny Green scored 18 points and coach Gregg Popovich returned from a two-game absence to lead San Antonio over Boston for its seventh straight victory.

Popovich returned for the opener of a four-game trip after missing two games following an undisclosed minor medical procedure. Leading 80-77 with 10 minutes left, the Spurs went on a 14-2 run to take a 94-79 lead with 6:11 left on a layup by Cory Joseph. After Jeff Green made a free throw for Boston, cutting the lead to 94-80, Aron



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, bottom, and Toronto Raptors' Jonas Valanciunas, of Lithuania, fight for a rebound during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Baynes beat the 24-second clock with a 3-pointer then made a layup for a 99-80 lead with 4:36 to go.

Boris Diaw had 15 points and Tim Duncan added 14 for the Spurs. The Celtics were led by Jeff Green with 16 points and Evan Turner with 12 as they dropped to 1-7 in their last eight games. Rajon Rondo finished with only two points and missed both of his free throws. He has made just 9 of 30 all season.

BULLS 102, NETS 84

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Butler had 26 points and Pau Gasol had 25 points and 13 rebounds, leading Chicago past Brooklyn. Rookie Bojan Bogdanovic led the Nets with 13 points and reserve Jarret Jack added 12.

Derrick Rose had 14 points and reserve Nikola Mirotic chipped in 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who capped a seven-game, 14-day road trip with their second straight win and finished 4-3 overall. Chicago's United Center had been reserved for the annual circus show, forcing the Bulls on the road.

WARRIORS 104, PISTONS 93
AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Draymond Green scored 20 points and Stephen Curry added 16 points and 10 assists to help Golden State beat Detroit for its ninth straight victory.

Marreese Speights added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors (14-2). The Pistons (3-14) have lost eight in a row, the longest streak of Stan Van Gun-

dy's coaching career, and have matched his career worst at 11 games under .500. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope led Detroit with 23 points.

Van Gundy broke up his usual three-post lineup against the smaller Warriors, starting Kyle Singler at small forward and bringing Greg Monroe off the bench. It didn't work. Monroe, Andre Drummond and Josh Smith shot a combined 12 for 38.

GRIZZLIES 97, KINGS 85

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Zach Randolph had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and Marc Gasol added 18 points and six rebounds as Memphis held off a late rally to beat short-handed Sacramento for its fifth straight win.

The frontcourt tandem took advantage of a Kings team playing without center DeMarcus Cousins, who missed his second straight game because of a virus. The Grizzlies built a 21-point lead in the second quarter and pulled away again in the fourth to stretch their NBA-best record to 15-2.

Rudy Gay scored 20 points and reserve Reggie Evans finished with 17 points and 20 rebounds as Sacramento (9-8) lost its third game in a row.

HEAT 86, KNICKS 79

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwyane Wade returned from a seven-game absence to score 27 points — 13 in the fourth quarter — as Miami beat New York.

Chris Bosh added 20 for the Heat, including a crucial 3-pointer with 1:07 left as Miami held off a late New York rally.

Carmelo Anthony also returned after a two-game absence because of back spasms to score 31 points

for the Knicks. Amare Stoudemire had 19 points and 12 rebounds

After trailing by 16, the Knicks pulled to 65-63 on Tim Hardaway Jr.'s layup with 9:22 left.

Wade, sidelined since Nov. 12 by a hamstring injury, followed with a baseline jumper and scored 12 of Miami's next 15 points to help the Heat maintain the lead.

MAGIC 93, SUNS 90

PHOENIX (AP) — Tobias Harris scored 21 points as Orlando held off a late rally to beat Phoenix and snap a four-game losing streak. Nikola Vucevic added 18 points for the Magic, who led by 16 early in the fourth quarter before the Suns cut it to three with 1:02 to play. Phoenix coach John Horvacek drew a technical on Orlando's next possession, the coach claiming to no avail that Vucevic traveled on a layup.

Consecutive 3-pointers by Goran Dragic and Gerald Green, the second with 2.9 seconds to go, cut the lead to one, Evan Fournier sank two free throws with 1.6 seconds to go and Phoenix failed to get a shot off at the buzzer.

Dragic scored 22 points and Markieff Morris had 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Suns.

TRAIL BLAZERS 107, TIMBERWOLVES 93

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 26 points and 15 rebounds to pace Portland over Minnesota.

Wesley Matthews added 23 points, including six 3-pointers for his third straight game with at least five 3-pointers, and the Blazers led by as many as 16 points.

Nelson Cruz

Continued from Page 17

He served a 50-game suspension in 2013 for violations of the major league drug agreement in relation to the sport's Biogenesis investigation.

He likely will bat behind fellow Dominican star Robinson Cano, who will be starting the second season of a \$240 million, 10-year contract.

Cruz did not accept a \$15.3 million qualifying offer from the Orioles. Seattle would forfeit its first-round draft pick, the 19th overall selection. Baltimore would get an additional pick between the first and second rounds.

Seattle also has a \$100 million, seven-year deal with third baseman Kyle Seager that awaits completion.

The Mariners have among the top pitching staffs in the AL but missed the post-season by one game last season due to offensive



In this Sept. 4, 2014, file photo, Baltimore Orioles' Nelson Cruz watches his two-run home run in the first inning of an interleague baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Baltimore.

Associated Press

shortcomings.

Cruz would fit the need, even if Seattle is taking a risk with such a significant commitment to a 34-year-old who has never posted big numbers at Safeco Field. Cruz has hit at least 22 homers in every season since 2009 and has been an All-Star three times. Cruz's .271 batting aver-

age and .525 slugging percentage last season with Baltimore was his highest since 2010 with Texas.

Cruz has hit .240 with nine homers and 19 RBIs in 52 games in Seattle - better than his .185 career average in Oakland and .218 in Anaheim.

Seattle hoped last season that Corey Hart could

return from knee troubles and add right-handed pop to an overwhelmingly left-handed batting order but he hit .203 with six homers and 21 RBIs in 68 games. Seattle also brought back switch-hitting designated hitter Kendrys Morales at midseason, but he could

not match his 2013 production.

According to STATS, Inc., the Mariners' .332 slugging percentage by right-handed batters this year was the lowest for an AL team in a non-shortened season since the 1979 Oakland Athletics. □

Adderall caused most MLB positive drug tests

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- While 113 big leaguers had exemptions in the past year to use otherwise banned substances to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Adderall caused eight of the 10 positive tests for stimulants under Major League Baseball's drug program. A report released Monday by MLB's independent program administrator detailed the findings. Dr. Jeffrey M. Anderson's

report showed that therapeutic use exemptions given to 40-man roster players to treat ADHD were down from the 119 in the year ending with the 2013 World Series. Among the TUEs for ADHD, there were 11 for new players, down from 21 the previous year and the lowest total since 2008, a person familiar with the data told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because those figures were not in the report. □

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Streaky nature of football teams puzzling

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

NFL coaches harp on the need for consistency. Regimen is everything.

Yet the streakiness of some teams, and the unpredictability for others, has marked this football season.

Now streakiness can be a good thing, as the Patriots (seven consecutive wins), Cardinals (six) and Cowboys (six) proved. Of course, each of them lost in Week 13.

And streakiness also can shatter a season, as the losses piled up for the Raiders (10), Jets (eight), Giants (seven), Jaguars (six), Titans (six) and Panthers (six). What is most maddening for coaches, general managers and players, though, is when they don't have a clue how their team will perform from week to week.

And yes, that has been true for some of the better clubs in the league. Defining what the Cowboys, Seahawks, 49ers, Chiefs, Chargers and each team in the AFC North is has become an unsolvable puzzle.

As for the tail enders, the two New York teams offer a case in point, which is surprising for the Giants, not so much for the Jets.

Under Tom Coughlin, the Giants have had lots of ups and downs. But they've generally blocked well for Eli Manning, had a substantial running game and a staunch pass rush filled with sack masters.

The reasons they are in the midst of the NFL's longest current slide is that all of those elements have failed.

Yes, Coughlin always looks exasperated on the sideline, and he's never had

more reason to be so than this year. The only consistent things about the Giants are their inconsistency - and the steady losing.

"It's a loss that we feel we should've won," Coughlin said after the Giants blew a 21-0 lead and fell in Jacksonville. "We've done this too many times. We just helped somebody beat us. Instead of forc-

play a home game in Detroit.

Once reliable on defense, now they are fundamentally weak. Their offense hasn't been any good since Ryan's first two seasons in New Jersey (2009-10).

Thus, ridiculously long negative streaks fill the Jersey Meadowlands.

Still, Ryan and Coughlin

Seattle. That allowed them to be choosy in their passing game, and it kept the defense off the field.

Now that the Cowboys have dropped three of their past five, it would be easy to presume their approach has changed. It hasn't really done so.

Yet the Cowboys have gone from cruising toward the postseason to a dog-

paramount.

It's also where that need for consistency becomes essential.

Injuries, of course, play a huge role in finding that stability. The Cardinals, whose six-game victory streak has been followed by a pair of road losses, are so banged-up they might not find it.

The Packers, getting



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) fumbles the ball as he is hit by Jacksonville Jaguars defensive tackle Roy Miller (97) during the second half of an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. The ball bounced in the end zone and was recovered by Jacksonville for a touchdown.

Associated Press

ing them to beat us, we helped them."

The Jets are even more befuddling because the one thing they always have done under Rex Ryan is play hard and physical football. This year, they've barely showed up on a trip to San Diego and in two losses to Buffalo - the most recent after the Bills were displaced by massive snowstorms and forced to

would be less agitated if they had any clue which team would suit up and take the field. Shockingly, that's also true for some of the positive streaky teams. Such as Dallas.

When the Cowboys were winning their six in a row, from Sept. 14-Oct. 19, they ran the ball down opponents' throats - even against the likes of defending Super Bowl champion

fight in which they could miss out on a wild-card berth.

Now that the calendar has hit the final month, teams with title designs covet getting on a streak - provided it's the right kind, not the type the Giants are mired in.

With so many tight playoff races and so many teams still alive, stringing together a bunch of wins becomes

healthy at the right time and riding a four-game win streak (and eight of nine), might already have discovered it.

"We have some big goals," Aaron Rodgers said after the Packers ended New England's winning ways on Sunday, "and we're getting into December football now with a chance with everything right in front of us." □

Amazon's new robot army is ready to ship

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer
TRACY, California (AP)

— A year ago, Amazon.com workers like 34-year-old Rejinaldo Rosales walked the aisles each shift to find each item a customer ordered and prepare it for shipping. Now the e-commerce giant boasts that it has boosted efficiency by deploying more than 15,000 wheeled robots to crisscross the floors of its biggest warehouses and deliver stacks of toys, books and other products to employees.

"We pick two to three times faster than we used to," Rosales said during a break from sorting merchandise into bins at Amazon's massive distribution center in Tracy, California. "It's made the job a lot easier."

Amazon.com Inc., which faces its single biggest day of online shopping on Monday, has invested heavily this year in upgrading and expanding its distribution network, adding new technology, opening more shipping centers and hiring 80,000 seasonal workers to meet the coming onslaught of holiday orders.

Amazon says it processed orders for 36.8 million items on the Monday after Thanksgiving last year, and it's expecting "Cyber Monday" to be even busier this year. CEO Jeff Bezos vows to one day deliver packages by drone, but that technology isn't ready yet. Even so, Amazon doesn't want a repeat of last year, when some customers were disappointed by late deliveries attributed to Midwestern ice storms and last-minute shipping troubles at both UPS and FedEx. Meanwhile, the company is facing tough competition from rivals like Google and eBay, and traditional retailers are offering more online services.

Amazon has forecast revenue of \$27.3 billion to \$30.3 billion for the hol-



A Kiva robot drive unit is seen, foreground, before it moves under a stack of merchandise pods, seen on a tour of one of Amazon's newest distribution centers in Tracy, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.

Associated Press

iday quarter, up 18 percent from last year but less than Wall Street had expected. However, Amazon has invested billions of dollars in its shipping network, and its reliability is a big selling point to customers, Piper Jaffray investment analyst Gene Munster wrote in a note to clients Friday. He thinks Amazon's forecast is conservative.

The Seattle-based company now has 109 shipping centers around the globe. The Tracy facility is one of 10 in which Amazon has deployed the robots, using technology acquired when the company bought robot-maker Kiva Systems Inc. in 2012, said Dave Clark, Amazon's senior vice president for operations, who gave reporters a tour on Sunday.

More than 1,500 full-time employees work at the center. They are joined by about 3,000 robots, gliding swiftly and quietly around the warehouse. The robots navigate by scanning coded stickers on the floor, following digital commands that

are beamed wirelessly from a central computer. The system uses bar codes to track which items are on each shelf, so a robot can fetch the right shelves for each worker as orders come

in. The robots will cut the Tracy center's operating costs by 20 percent, Clark said. But he was quick to assert they won't eliminate jobs. "Our focus is all about

building automation that helps people do their jobs better," he said, adding that workers are needed for more complex tasks such as shelving, packing and checking for damaged items. □

Security firm: Team targets email for stock info

The Associated Press

The cybersecurity company FireEye has unearthed a team of email intruders that snoop through the correspondence of company executives who may possess market-moving information.

FireEye said the team has carried out attacks against nearly 100 publicly traded companies or their advisory firms in possible attempts to play the stock market. Most of the targets are health care or pharmaceutical companies. It noted that the shares of those firms can move dramatically after the announcement of clinical trial results, regulatory decisions or other significant develop-

ments.

FireEye has labeled the group FIN4 and says it focuses on capturing usernames and passwords to email accounts, which gives the group access to private email correspondence. The group does not use malware, which helps it evade detection.

"FIN4 is the first time we are seeing a group of very sophisticated attackers actually systematically acquire information that only has true value to a criminal when used in relation to the stock market," FireEye Vice President Dan McWhorter said in a statement.

FireEye said the group sends convincing "phishing lures" to its targets,

often from the email accounts of other victims. The lures entice their targets into opening a document and entering their email credentials.

The security firm believes the group is based in the United States or Western Europe and involves native English speakers.

FireEye Inc. said Monday that the group has been operating since at least the middle of last year. It did not identify FIN4's targets.

Shares of FireEye climbed 46 cents to \$30.75 Monday morning while broader trading indexes fell slightly. Those shares had dropped about 30 percent so far this year, as of Friday. □

Stocks slip after retail sales weaken, China slows

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mounting signs of weakness in the global economy and a weak start to the holiday shopping season knocked the stock market lower on Monday.

Earlier sales, a shift to on-line shopping and stagnant wages meant fewer Americans showed up to stores over the Thanksgiving weekend, the National Retail Federation said Sunday. The trade group estimated that total spending for the four days totaled \$50.9 billion, down 11 percent from last year.

Major retailers slumped in response. Macy's lost \$1.72, or 3 percent, to \$63.19 and Target fell \$1.25, or 2 percent, to \$72.75. Best Buy lost \$2.15, or 6 percent, to \$37.26.

New reports of slowing manufacturing in China as well as in the three largest economies that use the European currency — Germany, France and Italy — also gave investors little reason to cheer.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 14.12 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 2,053.44. The losses were widespread: General Electric and other industrial companies led eight of the ten sectors in the index down. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 51.44 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,776.80, while the Nasdaq composite fell 64.28 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,727.35.

It was a weak start to what has been the stock mar-

ket's best month on average. Since 1950, the S&P 500 has ended December with a typical gain of 1.7 percent, according to the "Stock Trader's Almanac." But after a strong 11 percent run this year, the market looks relatively expensive. The S&P 500 index trades at 17.6 times its profits over the past 12 months, well above the long-term

will, just not so much that it really hurts corporate earnings." A survey by HSBC showed Chinese manufacturing activity lost steam in November, adding to signs of an economic slowdown. HSBC said its purchasing managers' index edged down to 50 from 50.4 the previous month. On the index's 100-point scale, numbers below 50 indicate

slipped 0.1 percent. Japan's benchmark stock index Nikkei 225 added 0.8 percent.

Major stock markets in Europe closed with slight losses. Germany's DAX sank 0.2 percent, and France's CAC 40 dropped 0.3 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 slid 1 percent. Russia's RTS index lost 1.6 percent. Back in the U.S., Dream-



Trader Michael Zicchinolfi works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Mounting signs of weakness in the global economy and a weak start to the holiday shopping season knocked the stock market lower on Monday.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

average. Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital, said more reports of slow economic growth around the world and falling oil prices could drive the market down in the coming weeks. But he thinks any setback will likely prove temporary. "Maybe the weakness in the global economy will take some of the starch out of our economy," he said. "It probably

contraction. China's economic growth slowed to a five-year low of 7.3 percent in the latest quarter.

"The November PMIs confirm that growth in China's industry remains under downward pressure," Louis Kuijs of Royal Bank of Scotland wrote in a report to investors.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index plunged 2.6 percent, while the Shanghai Composite Index

Works Animation slumped after its latest movie, "Penguins of Madagascar," had a weaker box-office opening over the Thanksgiving weekend than analysts had expected. The sequel to its popular "Madagascar" movie took second place to the newest installment of "The Hunger Games" series. DreamWorks' stock plunged \$1.33, or 6 percent, to \$22.51. □

STREET BRIEFS

Intel buying PasswordBox for services

NEW YORK (AP) — Intel Corp. said Monday that it bought PasswordBox, a service that saves and remembers passwords so that users can log into different websites without having to remember or type in their passwords. The Santa Clara, California-based chip maker did not disclose financial details of the deal. Intel said PasswordBox has been downloaded 14 million times since its debut a year ago. The company will be a part of Intel's security software business, which includes McAfee. Besides managing passwords, PasswordBox can also store and encrypt credit card information for quicker checkouts when shopping online. All of PasswordBox's 44 employees, based in Montreal, have joined Intel. □

Berkshire unit buys another chemical firm

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Warren Buffett's specialty chemical subsidiary Lubrizol will spend at least \$750 million to acquire businesses that make oilfield chemicals and drilling fluids. Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s Lubrizol says it expects to acquire two businesses from Weatherford International PLC by the end of 2014. Lubrizol will pay at least \$750 million, but the price could grow to \$825 million if the acquired businesses perform well. Lubrizol, which is based in Wickliffe, Ohio, says it will create a new business unit focused on oilfield solutions once it acquires the Engineered Chemistry and Integrity Industries units from Swiss-based Weatherford. Engineered Chemistry operates 10 sites mostly in North America that supply additives and fluids for a variety of oilfield activities. Integrity Industries has 14 locations that supply drilling fluids to mining companies. Both are based in Texas. □

German E.ON's spinoff marks energy business change

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Sweeping change in the electricity business and the rise of renewable energy are behind German utility E.ON's decision to spin off its conventional power plants — and create two companies that can each focus on what it does best. E.ON CEO Johannes Teyssen said Monday that conventional power generation will remain indispensable but that a "new world has grown up along-

side it, a world characterized above all by technological innovation and individualized customer expectations."

Duesseldorf-based E.ON SE will focus on renewables such as wind power and distribution networks, while the as-yet unnamed new company will keep gas and coal plants. Those plants have had difficulty making a profit due to government support for renewables. Germany

is trying to shut down all nuclear plants by 2022 and ramp up power generation from renewable sources.

Teyssen said the renewables-focused business was characterized by speed and innovation, while convention power generation was focused on secure supply and big, efficient facilities.

"We're already experiencing how difficult it is to combine these two very

different cultures in a single organization."

E.ON says it will keep businesses that employ some 40,000 of the company's 60,000 employees. Teyssen said that new setup "will not be accompanied by a job-cutting program."

E.ON said in a statement late Sunday that the new strategy will see it quit conventional power generation, global energy trading, exploration and production. □

US: Mercedes violated labor law at Alabama plant

ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press

The U.S. National Labor Relations Board has upheld a ruling that Mercedes violated federal labor laws by stopping United Auto Workers union supporters from handing out literature inside its plant in the state of Alabama.

The ruling by the three-member NLRB panel requires Mercedes to update

its employee handbook to say that workers are allowed to discuss union issues during non-work times and that they can solicit their colleagues in mixed-use areas like team centers and atriums.

Mercedes must also post notices at the plant near Tuscaloosa to acknowledge the violation and to reaffirm that management won't "interfere with,

restrain, or coerce" workers seeking to unionize the plant.

Kirk Garner, who has worked at the Mercedes plant since 2000, was a witness in the NLRB case and is a member of the newly formed UAW Local 112 that is trying to gain representation at the factory.

"We're hopeful it can be a turning point for honoring workers' rights in Alabama,

as Daimler does elsewhere in the U.S. and around the world," Garner said of the ruling, issued late Wednesday.

Mercedes parent Daimler has long declared that it is neutral on union questions. Jason Hoff, the plant's president and CEO, told reporters in September that the dispute did not reflect an anti-union position by management.

"We clearly feel there are certain places in the plant that are work places, and not places where we would want materials like that being distributed, regardless of whether that's for or against the union," Hoff said at the time.

The UAW has been ramping up its efforts at Mercedes and at fellow Volkswagen's plant in neighboring Tennessee. □

Putin says Russia will scrap South Stream pipeline

SUZAN FRASER
V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Russia is scrapping the South Stream natural gas pipeline project and may cooperate with Turkey instead on building a gas hub for southern Europe, President Vladimir Putin said Monday.

Putin pointed at the European Union's refusal to give the go-ahead for the multibillion project, saying that has left Moscow no other options. The project would have involved running a pipeline under the Black Sea to Bulgaria and further on to southern Europe.

However, Moscow will boost gas supplies to Turkey across the existing pipeline and later could build a new link and eventually work with Turkey on creating a hub for natural gas supplies on the border with Greece, he said.

The announcement came at a time when Russia-West ties are at their lowest point



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan shake hands after a joint news conference at the new Presidential Palace in Ankara, Turkey, Monday, Dec. 1, 2014. Putin arrived in Turkey for a one-day visit and met with Erdogan at his huge new palace on once-protected farm land and forest in Ankara, becoming the second foreign dignitary after Pope Francis to be hosted at the lavish, 1,000-room complex.

(AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

since the Cold War over Ukraine. The United States and the European Union have slapped economic sanctions on Russia over its annexation of Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of

Crimea and support for a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

Turkey, a NATO-member which is vying for European Union membership, has however, been keen

to increase exports to Russia even though the two nations have striking differences over the crisis in Syria and Ukraine.

Putin and Erdogan, often compared to each oth-

er for their authoritarian streak, tried to downplay their differences but divergences on Syria were nevertheless hard to conceal. Russia remains Syrian leader Bashar Assad's closest ally, while Turkey supports Syria's opposition forces and wants to see Assad deposed. "We are in agreement that the situation in Syria needs to be resolved. We have difficulties on the issue of how this can be done, how it can be resolved," Erdogan said. "An approach which questions what will happen once Assad is gone is totally wrong," Erdogan said. "We came to this point because of Assad. This shows that he was not successful" "We have to consider Assad as though he does not exist. It is not possible to reach a solution with Assad," he said.

Putin sought to downplay the differences, said the sides agreed that the situation in Syria "is not normal" and that they did not want "chaos to reign" there. □

Ukraine gets loan to modernize gas pipelines

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine landed a 150 million euro (\$187 million) loan on Monday to modernize its section of the pipeline used to deliver natural gas from Russia to Europe.

In a separate development, Russian President Vladimir Putin later in the day announced that Moscow would stop pursuing construction of a Black Sea gas pipeline widely viewed

as an attempt to circumvent Ukraine.

Speaking after a loan signature ceremony in Kiev, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said optimization of his country's gas pipelines would lower the cost of transporting the fuel by 20 percent.

The loan is being provided to state-owned pipeline operator Ukrtransgaz by the EU's lender, the European Investment Bank.

Yatsenyuk says refurbish-

ment of Ukraine's section of the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod pipeline will boost energy efficiency and reduce harmful emissions.

Almost 120 kilometers of pipelines will be replaced and two compressor stations modernized under the project. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is expected to contribute another \$200 million in loans for the same planned four-year reconstruction effort.

Yatsenyuk said he hopes a Ukrainian company will carry out the project, which he said could boost the economy. The pipeline system has the capacity to supply Europe with 142.5 billion cubic meters of gas annually. Russia has for years been pursuing pipeline projects intended to reduce its reliance on transit through Ukraine. Commercial and political disputes have led to the suspension of gas supplies to Europe in the

past. One is Nord Stream, a recently completed pipeline under the Baltic Sea, directly linking Germany with Siberia's vast natural gas reserves with a capacity to transit 55 billion cubic meters annually.

Moscow has lobbied hard to also build South Stream, which would have seen gas transported from Russia through the Black Sea to Bulgaria and other European countries, bypassing Ukraine. □

Mutts



6 Chix



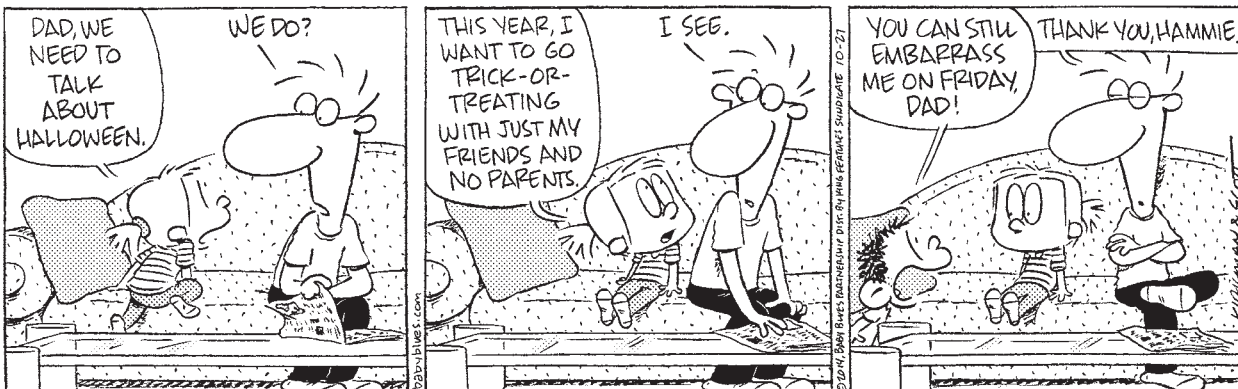
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4			5		9	2	
3	6						1	4
		5		1	4			7
			8		2	1		
1		2				6		3
		4	1		9			
9			5	2		4		
6	5						3	1
	2	3		7			9	

Difficulty Level ★

10/27

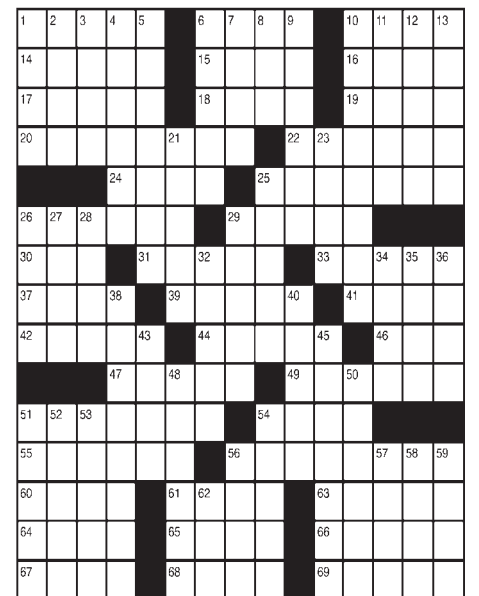
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

3	6	9	8	2	1	5	4	7
2	1	5	6	4	7	3	8	9
8	4	7	5	9	3	1	2	6
4	3	1	2	5	9	6	7	8
7	8	6	1	3	4	9	5	2
9	5	2	7	6	8	4	3	1
6	7	4	3	1	2	8	9	5
1	2	3	9	8	5	7	6	4
5	9	8	4	7	6	2	1	3

ACROSS

- Morley ___ of "60 Minutes"
- Close noisily
- "___ Heartache"; country rock hit
- In the know
- Tiny bit
- ___ up; sick
- Deadly
- Departs
- Was dishonest
- Vision
- Recoil in fear or disgust
- Gabor and Longoria
- Climbed onto, as a horse
- Extras not being used
- Numerical comparison
- Capture
- Left-hand ledger entry
- Wall recess
- Feels terrible
- Web surfer's stops
- Make airtight
- Sparkle
- Nuisances
- Not well-lit
- Sulks
- Furry swimmers
- Changed slightly
- Lion's cry
- ___ in; brought under control
- ___ board; place to post notices
- Capitol roof, often
- Dull-colored
- Overdo the role
- Dollar bills
- Part of the ear
- Capital of Bulgaria
- Cincinnati team
- Rams' mates
- Confidence



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/27/14

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

2	Take ___; subtract	JAMS	LABEL	SPAT
3	Destiny	UTAH	OPERA	EACH
4	Error remover	TOGO	TENET	PLEA
5	Played over in one's mind	SPIGOTS	NEATEST	
6	Deep audible breaths	UFO	WORSE	
7	Money, slangily	SLANT	JAW	STAMP
8	Feasted	HUNS	PIT	PESTER
9	Phillie Phanatic or San Diego Chicken	INN	CAMELOT	ADO
10	Chicago's state	RAIDER	REX	CLAN
11	Contaminate	TREED	BEE	HALLE
12	Long attack	FETID	NAB	
13	___ up; tallied	STRIDES	TITANIC	
21	Helium & argon	IRON	XEROX	RENO
23	Destroy	BADE	ACUTE	EATS
25	Partners	SPED	STEED	TROT

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10/27/14

DOWN

- Not risky

- Bar seat
- Oliver's request
- Least fresh
- Sell from a cart
- Small quake
- Zeal
- Africa's Sierra ___
- Two-___; was disloyal to
- Goldberg et al
- "I Got You ___"; 1960s song
- Bean curd
- Suffix for an inflammation
- ___ as a pin
- Use an oar



Students and community members hold their hands up on campus at Boston University in Boston, Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, during one of a series of nationwide protests to show solidarity with protesters in Ferguson.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Ferguson: Hands-up gesture animates protests

**JIM SALTER
JIM SUHR
Associated Press**

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Five NFL players entered the football field with their hands raised.

A day later, Americans walked out of work or school showing the same gesture of solidarity with Ferguson protesters after a grand jury decided not to indict the white officer who shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old.

The pose has come to symbolize a movement, even though witnesses offered conflicting accounts of whether Brown had his hands up in surrender when he was killed Darren Wilson.

Protests turned violent last week in the St. Louis area after a grand jury decided not to indict Wilson for shooting Brown during an August confrontation that had inflamed racial tensions across America.

The power of the symbol was evident again Monday. Protesters across the U.S. walked off the job or away from class in support of the Ferguson protesters. Walkouts took place in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere. □

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Climate change impacts heat up UN talks in Lima

KARL RITTER
FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — With this year on track to become the warmest on record, more than 190 nations began talks Monday on new limits for the greenhouse gases that are causing billions of dollars in damage and making life harder to sustain around the world.

New targets for limiting gas emissions blamed on fossil fuels were announced ahead of this conference by the U.S., the European Union and China, the first Asian nation to make such a pledge. This has injected optimism into negotiations that are supposed to climax in Paris next year with the adoption of a long-awaited climate pact.

But India, Russia, Japan and Australia have yet to commit to new limits; and scientists say much sharper emissions cuts are needed in coming decades to keep global warming within 2 degrees C (3.6 F) of pre-industrial times, the overall goal of the U.N. talks. Global temperatures have already risen about 0.8 degrees C (1.3 F), and more heat-trapping gases are emitted every year.

Every degree of warming can cause long-lasting impacts, from melting ice caps and rising sea levels to the loss of species.

"Human influence on the climate system is clear," Rajendra Pachauri, who leads the U.N.'s panel of climate-change experts, told delegates at the opening session in Lima. To have a decent chance of reversing the warming trend before the planet hits the 2-degree mark,

the world needs to slash emissions by 40 percent to 70 percent by 2050 and to near-zero by the end of the century, according to the panel's assessments.

Scientists are practically united in warning that there's no way to meet this goal by continuing

The biggest challenge for the U.N.-sponsored talks is dividing responsibilities between rich Western countries and emerging economies such as China and India. The poorest and most vulnerable nations also need help to develop their economies without aggravating

each government should provide so that formal emissions targets can be compared.

Developing countries also want rich nations to make good on promises of financing to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change impacts, which range from the spread of

cy is expected to present temperature data showing 2014 is shaping up to become the hottest year on record.

Peru is among the hardest-hit countries. The Andean nation has 70 percent of the world's tropical glaciers, which have lost more than a fifth of their mass in just three decades, putting 300,000 highlanders under severe stress as pastures and croplands dry up, the planting cycle becomes more erratic and cold snaps more severe.

Lima is the world's second-largest desert capital after Cairo, Egypt, and its 10 million inhabitants depend on glacial runoff for hydropower and to irrigate crops. Plants and animals are disappearing from Peru's cloud forests, its fisheries are declining and annual floods are more severe.

Yearly economic damage from global warming in Latin America and the Caribbean will reach \$100 billion a year by mid-century, according to research done for the Inter-American Development bank.

Collectively, the region causes less than 10 percent of global emissions, and yet its people are already bearing an oversized burden.

"The people with the least intensive climate lifestyles are suffering the most," said geographer Jeffrey Bury of The University of California at Santa Cruz, who studies the social and economic impacts of glacier loss.

"I think we can use the Andes high mountain environment," he said, "to understand what the future holds for the rest of us." □



Hundred of participants attend a candlelight vigil, a day before the inauguration of Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru, Sunday, June 30, 2014.

business as usual.

It would require a sustained, permanent, worldwide shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources to power homes, cars and industries. And even then, the transition might not happen fast enough without a large-scale deployment of new technologies to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

"We call on the world to ensure the opportunity does not slip away," said Nauru's Marlene Moses, representing a group of Pacific island nations threatened by rising seas.

global warming, and to adapt to climate changes that are already causing more violent weather, prolonged droughts and intense flooding.

Among them is host country Peru, whose glaciers are melting ever-faster, threatening water supplies on the coastal desert where 70 percent of its citizens live and threatening the nation's hydropower and food security. The negotiators in Lima are focusing on a draft agreement that can be refined before the Paris meeting a year from now. A key issue is what data

diseases to coastal flooding to major disruptions to agriculture.

There's no common agreement on how that money should be used; for example, The Associated Press found that Japan has spent \$1 billion of its climate financing on new power plants in Indonesia that burn coal — the top source of man-made emissions. Japan says it improves the environment because the new plans burn cleaner, but critics said coal has no place in climate financing.

The U.N.'s weather agen-

Associated Press



Strayed to try screenplays after 'Wild' experience

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

In this Oct. 13, 2014 file photo, Cheryl Strayed arrives for the premiere of "Wild" at a central London cinema, during the BFI London Film Festival, in London.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When she hiked more than 1,000 miles through California and Oregon wilderness, Cheryl Strayed didn't expect to end up in Hollywood.

The author of "Wild," opening this week as a film starring Reese Witherspoon, hadn't planned to write about her three-month solo trip on the Pacific Crest Trail. When she finally did years later (at her husband's urging), she sent the manuscript to Witherspoon's camp, knowing the actress was looking for complex female characters to bring to the screen through her new production company. Still, Strayed was stunned when the Oscar winner called.

"This was before the book was released," Strayed said; before it became an

Oprah Book Club pick and a New York Times best seller.

Since then, the 46-year-old writer has been on a Hollywood adventure — one that has inspired profound gratitude and piqued her interest in writing her own screenplay.

Handing her memoir over to Hollywood was scary, she said.

"But I do find that if you take risks, that often the best things come from being brave in that way, from making yourself vulnerable," she said. "So I just trusted that."

She also trusted Witherspoon, with whom she's become friends, and who invited Strayed's involvement in nearly every as-

pect of the film. The author consulted on costumes, locations, the hiking experience and intimate details about her personal life.

Witherspoon plays Strayed, a young woman who escapes to the wilderness to end a self-destructive bender that began with her mother's premature death. Her marriage crumbles as she turns to drugs and promiscuity to numb the pain. Desperation with a glimmer of dignity drives her into nature — an inexperienced hiker determined to trek one of the toughest trails in the country.

Witherspoon says the memoir is "one of the most important books I've ever read in my life."

She was deeply moved by Strayed's story and grateful

for the author's support in making the movie.

"She sort of relinquished control and gave us this wonderful story to tell," Witherspoon said. "And being an artist herself, she was so open to having us interpret her words, to make it cinematic, which was incredibly freeing and really the greatest gift ever."

For Witherspoon, the book offered "resolution." For Strayed, the hike, and her reflection on it, fostered a sense of redemption. It's a story about "bearing the unbearable," she said.

"It's a very deep experience for so many people to read 'Wild' and feel what they feel, because of course they're not feeling it about my life, but about their own," she said. "And that's what art does: It re-

minds us that we are more alike than different and that our common humanity connects us really profoundly."

Serving as "the ambassador for 'Wild'" — first for the book, then for the movie — has kept Strayed from her regular writing routine. But she has "big plans for 2015" that includes more books, and maybe even a screenplay.

"I was absolutely informed by the experience I went through with 'Wild' because I was so involved in the making of the movie on every level, and it was a great education," she said. "It gave me confidence... I know how to make a story, and I can make it work in this form. So it's kind of exciting to me." □

Kathy Griffin named new 'Fashion Police' host

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kathy Griffin will be terrorizing the fashion crowd as the new host of "Fashion Police," replacing the late Joan Rivers when it returns to E! in January. The comic-commentary series, which had aired weekly, will now present 17 special episodes throughout 2015 that focus on high-profile red carpet and fashion events, E! announced Monday. It returns Jan. 12 for coverage of the Golden Globe Awards. E! Executive Vice President Jeff Olde called Rivers "a dear friend and mentor to Kathy, who will no doubt continue her legacy and do the series justice by bringing her own unique comic style and tell-it-like-it-is personality to the host chair." "You celebrities better strap yourself in," Griffin said, "as I am taking no prisoners." Griffin is an award-winning actress, comedian and author known for her biting comic style. She won two Emmys for her Bravo real-



In this Nov. 3, 2014 file photo, host Kathy Griffin poses at the "Make Equality Reality" event at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

ity series, "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List." Her selection had been widely anticipated. "Kathy just feels right," said Melissa Rivers, who continues as "Fashion Police" executive producer, adding: "I'm excited to see where this panel takes this series my mother so adored in this next incarnation." Returning panelists Kelly Osbourne and Giuliana Rancic will be joined by newcomer

Brad Goreski, a fashion stylist and lifestyle expert and the former star of Bravo's "It's a Brad, Brad World." Originally hosted by Rivers, "Fashion Police" had been off the air since the veteran comedian and TV personality was hospitalized in late August after going into cardiac arrest during a medical procedure at a New York doctor's office. She died Sept. 4 at age 81. □

First boyfriend for singing star Susan Boyle at 53

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The magnificent and shy singer Susan Boyle has her first boyfriend at age 53 — a Connecticut doctor she met on her recent U.S. tour who may soon visit her in Scotland.

"That's the plan," Boyle's spokeswoman, Nicola Phillips, said Monday. "She met someone when she was in America and the idea is that he can come here."

Boyle and the doctor met at a hotel in Clearwater, Florida, Phillips said, adding that Boyle is "definitely" happy to have met someone.

The church volunteer from a small Scottish town became a global sensation when she sang the "Les Miserables" number "I Dreamed a Dream" on TV contest "Britain's Got Talent" in 2009. At first she seemed uncomfortable



In this June 24, 2014 photo shows Scottish singer Susan Boyle poses for a portrait in promotion of her upcoming U.S. tour in New York. Associated Press

on stage, but she silenced skeptics as soon as she started to sing. Boyle said at the time she had never been kissed. The contrast between her timid, occasionally nervous manner and her matchless soaring voice won Boyle millions of fans throughout the world, and she has followed her TV breakthrough with a string of successful

record releases. She has received an honorary doctorate, performed for Pope Benedict XVI and wowed audiences in Las Vegas. But the pressures of performing have sometimes overwhelmed her, and she was treated for nervous exhaustion after her "Britain's Got Talent" run focused national attention on her. □



In this Saturday, March 8, 2014, file photo, Veronica Roth, author of the book, "Divergent," poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

'Divergent' author promotes holiday giving

NEW YORK (AP) — Veronica Roth is in a giving mood: The multimillion-selling young adult author is backing a holiday season campaign that supports First Book, which over the years has distributed millions of works to children in need. For every \$2.50 given to First Book, publisher HarperCollins will donate a copy of Roth's "Divergent." The fundraising effort was announced Monday. The campaign has the hashtag #abnegationDonation. "Reading is such a huge part of my life and there are so many kids who don't have access to books,"

Roth said during a recent telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I felt like it was time to get involved with some kind of organization that donates books and First Book is excellent."

Roth, 26, has been busy over the past year, promoting her "Divergent" trilogy and the first "Divergent" movie, which starred Shailene Woodley. She has no plans to tour for the First Book promotion but expects to be active on social media.

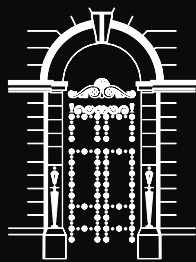
She is not ready to discuss any future books.

"It's been a wonderful year and it's time to take a break," she said. □

ABC's Muir to do brief Facebook newscast

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC's "World News Tonight" anchor David Muir will do a one-minute newscast each weekday for Facebook, touching on the day's top stories and trending topics online. The "Facecast" will usually be posted in the early afternoon, and was set to start Monday. ABC said Facebook users will see the report in their news stream

if they have "liked" "World News Tonight," or else will be able to find it on the newscast's Facebook page. ABC said it was the first newscast created specifically for social media by an evening news anchor. Called "Facecast: The One Thing," the brief newscast will feature video and updates on breaking news, the economy, politics and sports. □



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Thierry Henry leaving New York Red Bulls

TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — Thierry Henry is leaving Major League Soccer after 4½ seasons, unable to lead the New York Red Bulls to the team's first championship. The 37-year-old French star made the announcement Monday, two days after the Red Bulls lost the Eastern Conference final to the New England Revolution. And he said he made the decision back in 2010 to leave when his contract expired.

"I am taking this opportunity to announce that unfortunately Saturday was my last game for the New York Red Bulls," Henry said in a statement released by the team Monday. "The decision has always been that I would leave after the duration of my contract, and although that was never going to change, I didn't want it to distract from the progress of the team."

With Landon Donovan retiring after the Los Angeles Galaxy play New England in the MLS Cup final Sunday, the league is losing arguably its two biggest stars.

A former Arsenal and Barcelona standout, Henry did not say whether he's retiring or intends to play elsewhere. He plans to take a few weeks to decide what to do next.

He speaks English, French and Spanish, also could turn his career to television and be a soccer analyst.

Henry joined the Red Bulls from



New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry, right, sends the ball toward the goal as New England Revolution's A.J. Soares defends, left, during the first half of the second soccer game of the MLS Eastern Conference final in Foxborough, Mass., Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014.
Associated Press

Barcelona after the 2010 World Cup. He had a \$3.75 million salary this year and \$4.35 million in

overall compensation. "Thierry Henry, an icon of the world's game, has been a won-

derful player for the New York Red Bulls and a major influence on the development of MLS," Red Bulls sporting director Andy Roxburgh said..

Henry played in 122 matches for the Red Bulls, scoring 51 goals and adding 42 assists, tops in franchise history. His goals total was second to Juan Pablo Ángel's 58, 14 of his goals were winners and 11 of his assists set up winning goals, also tops in club history.

Henry also scored some of the league's most spectacular goals, including one that went directly into the net on a corner kick against Columbus in 2012.

Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher was quick to react to the on news.

"What a player!" he tweeted. "The best I faced without a doubt and yes I still have nightmares about him running past me at Anfield!!"

Henry was an MLS All-Star four times (2011-2014), a finalist for the league's MVP award in 2012 and picked for MLS Best XI in 2011 and 2012.

In announcing his departure, Henry said he enjoyed his time playing in the MLS and living in the area.

"A special mention must go to the Red Bull fans who have supported this team through the good, the bad and the ugly times in the sun, rain and snow. You guys have really meant a lot to me and thank you for all your wonderful support," he said. □



Los Angeles Galaxy's Landon Donovan, right, kicks away from Seattle Sounders' Gonzalo Pineda (8) and Brad Evans, left, in the first half of the second leg of the MLS western conference final soccer match, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in Seattle.

Associated Press.

SEATTLE (AP) — Juninho scored a valuable away goal early in the second as the Los Angeles Galaxy advanced to the Major

League Soccer final for the ninth time in club history despite losing 2-1 to the Seattle Sounders on Sunday. The Western Conference

Juninho's goal puts Galaxy, Donovan into MLS final

final ended 2-2 on aggregate, but away goals were used as a tiebreaker in playoffs for the first time this season and Los Angeles used it to the full advantage following a 1-0 win in the first-leg last weekend. After surrendering goals to Brad Evans and Clint Dempsey's in the first 32 minutes, Juninho's goal was the difference. The Galaxy will go for their fifth MLS championship and kept the career of Landon Donovan going for one more game.

Los Angeles will host Eastern Conference champion New England in the final

next Sunday.

Seattle was attempting to reach the MLS Cup final for the first time and the Sounders appeared headed that way after an exciting first 45 minutes where their top players were at their best. Evans' goal in the 25th minute pulled Seattle even on aggregate and Dempsey's first goal of the playoffs put the Sounders in front.

It was a crushing result for Seattle, which was attempting to become the first team in league history to win the MLS Cup, Supporters' Shield and U.S. Open Cup in the same

season.

After a disjointed first 25 minutes, Evans' goal immediately opened up the field for Seattle. Dempsey scored but was flagged for being offside. Martins airmailed an open attempt in the box and Lamar Neagle's left-footed shot for the far post was pushed aside by Penedo.

Seattle finally got the lead and Dempsey was the instigator. He kept the play alive by getting a pass off to DeAndre Yedlin while on the ground, then was in the right spot when Yedlin's cross was deflected to the top of the penalty area. □